

Message Text

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51

ACTION INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9986

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINR CH

SUBJECT : RECENTLY DEPARTED CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAN K'O-HUA
BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: A. STATE 161444

B. CONAKRY 609, 898, 901, 902, 766 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR HAN DEPARTED CONAKRY IN JUNE 1974 AFTER A FIVE-YEAR TOUR IN GUINEA, THE FINAL YEAR AS DEAN OF LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS. SEVERAL LOCAL SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT HE HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO ROME, AND WILL GO THERE AFTER A FEW MONTHS IN CHINA.

2. WHEN HAN BECAME DEAN OF THE CORPS, REPLACING A VIOLENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN CUBAN, HE AGREED TO MEET PERIODICALLY WITH ME AS DEAN, FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN GUINEA. THESE CONVERSATIONS, AT MY OFFICE OR HIS, WITH ONLY HIS INTERPRETER PRESENT, WERE AT FIRST RATHER FORMAL, BUT GRADUALLY BECAME THE OCCASION FOR SOMEWHAT FRANK DISCUSSIONS (REFTELS B), AT WHICH HE DEMONSTRATED TWO ATTITUDES IN PARTICULAR: A. AN APPARENTLY SINCERE CONCERN FOR GUINEA'S PROBLEMS OF SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES AND INADEQUATE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. DURING HIS TOUR, CHINESE AID TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR INCREASED, AND AT VARIOUS TIMES THERE HAVE

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BEEN REPORTEDLY SEVERAL HUNDRED CHINESE AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS

HERE, WORKING PARTICULARLY ON RICE PRODUCTION, AND BUILDING A FARM TOOL FACTORY IN THE INTERIOR. CHINESE ALSO PROVIDED TIMELY GIFTS OF RICE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, AS WELL AS REGULAR DELIVERIES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS. HAN EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE THAT US AID IN THIS SECTOR SHOULD CONTINUE OR BE EXPANDED.

B. A CONCERN WITH SOVIET ACTIVITIES HERE, PARTICULARLY MILITARY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS USE OF GUINEAN PORT AND AIRFIELD FACILITIES FOR MILITARY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. HE DID NOT INDICATE TO WHAT EXTENT HE HAD DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH PRESIDENT TOURE.

3. AT LOCAL RECEPTIONS HAN SET THE EXAMPLE FOR HIS STAFF BY BEING CORDIAL BUT CORRECT WITH AMERICANS, AND HE MET REGULARLY WITH THE CHIEFS OF OTHER NON-COMMUNIST MISSIONS THAT HAVE RELATIONS WITH PEKING.

4. HAN AND ALL HIS EMBASSY OFFICERS SPOKE TO NON-CHINESE THROUGH INTERPRETERS, ALTHOUGH IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT DURING HIS FIVE YEARS HERE HE DID ACQUIRE SOME COMPREHENSION OF FRENCH.

5. HAN'S WIFE, KUO LI-WIN, ACCOMPANIED HIM HERE AND WAS LISTED AS THE SENIOR COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST. WHENEVER HE LEFT GUINEA SHE ACCOMPANIED HIM, SO SHE WAS NEVER CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, AND HER ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY WAS LIMITED TO ATTENDANCE AT RECEPTIONS.

6. AMBASSADOR HAN APPEARED TO BE AN INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE MAN, WHO WOULD BE WORTH CONTINUED CONTACT BY US OFFICIALS, IF THE PROTOCOL SITUATION ALLOWS IT.
TODMAN

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